

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-01 EUR-01 /004 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:LPFEIFLE:ATP
APPROVED BY ARA/USOAS:JWFORD
----- 021794

R 182333Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 254240

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, OAS
SUBJECT: QUITO MFM

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT: QUITO
PR 122327Z NOV 74

1. QTE FROM SECSTATE, WASH., DC: U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR INTERAMERICAN AFFAIRS WILLIAM D.. ROGERS SAID
TODAY THAT THE INABILITY OF HEMISPHERIC FOREIGN MINISTERS
TO REACH AGREEMENT ON WHETHER TO LIFT OAS SANCTIONS AGAINST
CUBA WILL HAVE LITTLE, IF ANY, EFFECT ON THE"NEW DIALOGUE".
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2. "THIS WAS A ONE-ISSUE MEETING," ROGERS SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD HAVE LIFTED THE 10-YEAR-OLD SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA FAILED TO MUSTER THE NECESSARY TWO THIRDS MAJORITY OF 14 VOTES AMONG 21 SIGNATORY NATIONS OF THE RIO TREATY.

3. "WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE "NEW DIALOGUE" MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES NEXT MARCH WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION," ROGERS CONTINUED. "CUBA MAY BE A BIG ISSUE, THEATRICALY, BUT WE THINK THERE ARE MANY MORE SERIOUS ISSUES FACING THE HEMISPHERE, SUCH AS TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE."

4. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, WILLIAM MAILLIARD, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE NEWS CONFERENCE, SAID HE THOUGHT THE RIO TREATY WOULD BE "TO SOME EXTENT WEAKENED" BY THE OUTCOME OF THE QUITO MEETING BUT HE HASTILY ADDED THAT "IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO TRANSLATE THIS RESULT INTO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM."

5. SECRETARY ROGERS EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE, NEUTRAL ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE BEFORE ABSTAINING ON THE FINAL VOTE. "IT WAS OUR POLICY FROM START TO FINISH OF NOT ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE ANY VOTES AND NOT DOING ANY ARM TWISTING," ROGERS SAID. "THE CHARGE HAS OFTEN BEEN MADE THAT THE UNITED STATES DOMINATES THE OAS, WE HAVE MADE A SINCERE EFFORT TO PUT A STOP TO IT AT CHARGE THROUGH OUR ACTION AT THIS CONFERENCE." HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. LOBBIED NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST THE RESOLUTION AND WAS READY AND WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY RESULT VOTED BY THE OTHER 20 NATIONS; THE RESOLUTION CO-SPONSORED BY COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA WAS SUPPORTED BY 12 COUNTRIES AND OPPOSED BY THREE WITH SIX ABSTENTIONS, INCLUDING THE U.S.

6. "THE NEW DIALOGUE IS BASED ON A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWPOINTS AMONG EQUALS," ROGERS COMMENTED. "THE BEST CONTRIBUTION WE COULD MAKE IN QUITO WAS TO FOLLOW A NEUTRAL POLICY. HOWEVER, DON'T HAVE THE SAME RESTRAINTS ON OTHER

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ISSUES AND WILL SPEAK OUT ON MATTERS OF VITAL NATIONAL INTEREST." ROGERS TERMED THE RECENT LINOWITZ REPORT AS JZA VERY CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO U.S. - LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS ... THE BEST REPORT IN THE LAST 20 TO 30 YEARS." HE SAID THE REPORT INDICATES THE "SINCERE INTEREST" OF THE U.S. IN IMPROVING INTERAMERICAN RELATIONS, "LATIN AMERICA HAS MOVED UP ON OUR SCALE OF PRIORITIES SINCE SECRETARY KISSINGER MOVED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT," ROGERS ADDED.

"SECRETARY KISSINGER IS LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING THE
NEW DIALOGUE MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES."

7. THE CHIEF U.S. DELEGATE TO THE 15TH CONSULTATIVE
MEETING WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE ROBERT S. INGERSOLL,
WHO MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.
THERE WAS SOME CRITICISM OF KISSINGER FOR NOT ATTENDING THE
QUITO MEETING BUT IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT HE HAD PRIOR COM-
MITMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ELSEWHERE. EXPLAINING
THE U.S. ABSTENTION, INGERSOLL QUOTED THE PRESIDENT OF
ECUADOR, BRIG. GEN. GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA, WHO TOLD THE
OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE LAST FRIDAY THAT DELEGATES
SHOULD "OPENLY AND FREELY EXPRESS THE POSITION OF OUR
COUNTRIESWHILE AT THE SAME TIME SEEING THAT THE
POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION THAT MAY ARISE IN NO WAY
EFFECT THE INTERAMERICAN SOLIDARITY THAT WE SEEK TO
STRENGTHEN." AND INGERSOLL ADDED: "WE MUST NOT LET A
FAILURE OF AGREEMENT ON THE CUBAN ISSUE, AT THIS TIME, TO
OBSCURE OUR COMMON INTEREST IN WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS ON THE MAJOR ISSUES OF
THIS DECADE." BELL UNQTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE254240
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LPFEIFLE:ATP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740333-0701
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741133/aaaabbva.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUITO MFM FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT: QUITO
TAGS: OCON, OAS
To: BELGRADE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005